

**Fact Sheet
June 2002**

USS-POSCO Industries 900 Loveridge Rd. Pittsburg

(EPA ID - CAD 009 150 194)



Remedy Selection (Soils) and Post-Closure Permit (Landfill)

*DTSC is one of six
Boards and
Departments within
the California
Environmental
Protection Agency.
The Department's
mission is to restore,
protect and enhance
the environment,
to ensure public health,
environmental
quality and
economic vitality,
by regulating
hazardous waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing
and promoting
pollution prevention.*

State of California



California
Environmental
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Introduction

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to provide information on 1) proposed remedies for contaminated soils, and 2) a proposed draft Post-Closure Permit to allow expansion of an existing closed landfill at the USS-POSCO Industries facility located at 900 Loveridge Road in Pittsburg, California. **Items in bold are defined in the glossary on page 6.**

The remedy selection phase of corrective action for contaminated soils is required by the federal **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** and by the State Health and Safety Code. The Post-Closure Permit, which is part of the proposed remedy, is required for the proposed landfill expansion under California State laws and regulations. DTSC is authorized by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)** to enforce these RCRA regulations. DTSC has been pursuing corrective action at this site since 1993. Remedy selection would be the last phase of corrective action for this partial selection of contaminated soil areas (**Solid Waste Management Units [SWMUs]**). The expanded **landfill (Corrective Action Management Unit [CAMU])** is part of the proposed remedy and requires a Post-Closure Permit.

Public Meeting & Comment Period

DTSC invites comments during the 45-day public comment period on the proposed remedies, draft Post-Closure Permit, and proposed CEQA documents for this project between June 10 and July 24, 2002

A public hearing will be held on July 16, at 7:00 pm at the Pittsburg City Hall, 65 Civic Ave, Pittsburg, California, telephone (925) 252-4850. The hearing will be preceded by an informal public information meeting from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

DTSC encourages all interested parties to comment or ask questions. The comments received will be considered in the final decision. Please mail written comments by July 24, 2002 to:

Andrew Berna-Hicks
Department of Toxic
Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710

Phone: (510) 540-3956
Email: ABernahi@dtsc.ca.gov
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Facility Description and Operations

The USS-POSCO Industries facility occupies approximately 483 acres and has operated at the Pittsburg site since 1909.

Operations at the site consist of receiving coils of hot-rolled steel from off-site sources, and producing cold-rolled steel, galvanized steel, and tin- or chromium-plated steel through the processes of cold reduction, annealing, and finishing.

Hazardous waste is generated at the facility. No hazardous waste is stored over 90 days or treated at the facility. The Unit I Landfill is a closed disposal unit for non-RCRA California hazardous waste. No radioactive or explosive wastes are allowed at the site.



Land Use/Environmental Setting

Land Use: USS-POSCO Industries is located in an area zoned General Industrial by the City of Pittsburg. The residence

closest to the facility is approximately 150 feet from the facility's property line, and the closest school is within approximately one-quarter mile or 1,320 feet. There are 9 schools and 22 places of worship within a mile of the site. State Highway 4 runs within 1,800 feet south of the facility.

Surrounding land uses include a combination of residential, commercial and light industrial uses directly south and west of the site, and industry uses to the east. The San Joaquin River borders the site to the north. There are approximately 900 private residences within one-quarter mile of the site.

Surface Water: Kirker Creek drains the hills south of the facility and flows in a northeasterly direction toward the river until it encounters the southern boundary of the facility. At this point, the creek is diverted to the east in a channel along the north side of the Pittsburg-Antioch Highway.

Groundwater and Soil: Groundwater and soil at the site are contaminated with organic solvents as a result of past operations at the facility. Contamination at the site was discovered in 1994. A variety of volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds are present within the site boundaries (see page 4 for further details about the organic solvents and organic compounds). Groundwater contamination is primarily onsite. Portions of the groundwater contamination at the site appear to have their sources from bordering industrial and/or railway activities. DTSC is the lead agency overseeing site-wide soil and groundwater remediation. Groundwater remediation will be addressed in a future phase of corrective action at the facility.

Hazardous Waste Permit History

The facility began operations in 1909 under the name Columbia Steel. The US Steel Corporation (USS) operated the facility from 1930 to 1986, at which time USS and Pohang Iron and Steel of Korea entered into an agreement for joint operation of the facility. DTSC issued a permit to USS-POSCO Industries for storage of hazardous waste in tanks and containers in 1995.

The Unit I Landfill, a non-RCRA California waste only disposal unit, operated from 1978 to 1995. The Unit I Landfill was closed by DTSC in 1995. This landfill has a geosynthetic cap covering the top to prevent intrusion of water. There is no liner underlying this landfill. A groundwater monitoring system is required to ensure that the materials within the landfill have not impacted the groundwater.

The storage units, which operated under the permit issued in 1995, have been closed. Corrective action is now proceeding under a consent agreement between USS-POSCO Industries and DTSC. This agreement, signed in 1998, will be revised to reflect all corrective action remedies approved in this phase of the corrective action process.

USS-POSCO Industries applied for a Post-Closure Permit on May 22, 2001, which would allow the facility to open and expand the Unit I Landfill. The new expanded landfill would become a CAMU for wastes taken from on-site SWMUs for remediation purposes.

Corrective Action History

RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA): This document was prepared by DTSC for the site in 1993. It gives a full history of the facility, including known and suspected releases of hazardous materials at the facility, and recommends further action in order to determine if, in fact, soils or waters at the site have been impacted and require remediation.

Based on the RFA, the facility is required to prepare documents in order to further the corrective action process. All documents are reviewed and approved by DTSC.

RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Workplan: This document was completed in October 1995 and approved by DTSC in July 1996, and identifies SWMUs requiring further investigation.

RFI Report: This report was completed in April 1998 and approved by the DTSC in August 1998, and documents the collection and evaluation of over 345 samples of soil and groundwater. Chemicals at 12 SWMUs were found at concentrations exceeding the RFI screening criteria, thus warranting inclusion in the Corrective Measure Study (CMS) phase of the RCRA corrective action process.

CMS Workplan: This document was completed in November 1999 and was approved by DTSC in December 1999. It identifies SWMU requiring CMS corrective measures and appropriate remedial alternatives.

CMS Report: This report was completed in August 2000, and documents the evaluation of potentially feasible corrective measure alternatives that may be used to remediate

soil generated from those SWMUs requiring corrective action.

CAMU Designation Request: This document was completed in August 2000 and was acknowledged in November 2000 by DTSC as being substantially complete. It requests DTSC to designate the Unit I Landfill as a CAMU. The document provides the necessary information that enables DTSC to evaluate the request.

Notice – Self-Implementation of On-site Cleanup and Disposal of PCB Remediation Material/Soil: This document was completed in 2001 and specifies confirmation sampling and analysis protocols for PCB- containing SWMUs planned for remediation.

Remediation Confirmation Sampling and Analysis Plan: This document was completed in 2002 and specifies confirmation sampling and analysis protocols for non-PCB containing SWMUs planned for remediation.

Remedy Phase: This phase of the corrective action process proposes remedies for ten SWMUs identified and characterized during the various stages of the corrective action process. These particular SWMUs have not impacted groundwater based on groundwater samples collected and analyzed to date. The proposed remedy, which includes expansion of the Unit I Landfill, is described under the section entitled Project Description.

Project Description

The project consists of remediation (excavation and disposal or deed restrictions) for ten SWMUs. The estimated volume of soil from each SWMU, the contaminant of concern (COC), and the planned disposal site (on-site CAMU or off-

site regulated facility) for the soils are listed below:

SWMU	Volume (cubic yards)	
3	920	metals
17.1	21	PCBs
24.1	81,800	metals
24.3 (East)	40	metals
24.3 (Central)	160	metals
24.5-1	1,040	PCBs,
metals, oils	Off-Site	
24.5-3	4,000	metals,
oils, organics	CAMU	
24.5-4	100	metals,
oils	Off-Site	
24.8	7,500	metals
24.2	780,000	metals

With the exception of SWMU 24.2, all areas will be remediated to health-based risk levels created for industrial/ commercial workers or construction workers, whichever is lower. The levels were calculated using site-specific health risk assessment methodologies reviewed and approved by DTSC.

All areas within SWMU 24.2 identified as having levels of contaminants above cleanup levels will be remediated and have been identified with alternate SWMU numbers (24.3, 24.5, etc.). However, due to a significant potential for the existence of soils above construction worker cleanup levels for lead, this entire 56-acre area will be deed restricted to require that a Health and Safety Plan be prepared and approved by a registered California Industrial Hygienist. This plan will protect construction workers from exposure to contaminated soil.

All SWMUs, after remediation has been completed, would be surveyed and deed restricted for industrial/commercial use only. No schools, day-care centers,

hospitals, or agricultural activities would be allowed on these properties.

On-site disposal is proposed at the Unit I Landfill to facilitate the disposal of remediation soil. This landfill was closed in 1995. Unit I would be expanded both laterally and vertically. Unit I would be expanded laterally to the south (about 90 feet) over an approximate two-acre area, and would be expanded vertically by approximately nine feet. The Unit I Landfill, which would become a CAMU, would have a geosynthetic cap to prevent the intrusion of rainwater into the waste. This cap will be similar to the one which now caps the Unit I Landfill. No geosynthetic underlying liner is currently under the Unit I Landfill, nor is one planned for the CAMU. A groundwater monitoring system is in place that would detect any impacts to groundwater caused by the unit.

Approximately 94,200 cubic yards of additional soils would be added to the 130,800 cubic yards of soils already in place at the Unit I Landfill. The soils to be added would be of a similar nature and would contain the following COCs with the following concentration ranges observed during the RFI:

Arsenic:	5 - 1,200 ppm*
Chromium:	13 - 134 ppm
Copper:	15 - 230 ppm
Lead:	5 - 25,100 ppm
Nickel:	13 - 1,020 ppm
Manganese:	3 - 10 – 430 ppm
Zinc:	35 – 4,040 ppm
Oil and Grease:	200,000 – 710,000 ppm
Ethylbenzene:	ND -2.5 ppm
Toluene:	ND - 1.3 ppm
Xylene:	ND - 2.3 ppm

* ppm = parts per million

Groundwater monitoring for the landfill would be required for at least 30 years, and longer if required by DTSC. Also, regular inspections would be required on a monthly basis to ensure compliance with post-closure requirements. Inspections would also be required for a minimum of 30 years, and longer if required by DTSC.

Compliance History

The facility is inspected periodically by DTSC. The last inspection was completed in 1999. No violations were discovered. No Notice of Violation has been issued by DTSC since 1996, at which time the facility corrected minor violations within 45 days so that no fine was levied by DTSC.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Prior to reaching a decision on this project, DTSC as the Lead Agency under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will consider the environmental effects of the project. A Negative Declaration has been prepared for this project and comments are also being solicited for this document. A Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon closure of the formal permit appeal process.

New Permit Issuance

The Post-Closure Permit proposed for issuance would be a ten-year permit. The permit would be evaluated for renewal every ten years. (California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66270.51). Procedures being followed during the consideration of issuance of a new permit for this facility comply with California Code of Regulations, title 22, chapter 20.

Glossary

Annealing: A form of heat treatment applied to metal to soften it and relieve internal stresses to make it easier to work or machine

CAMU (Corrective Action Management Unit): Materials generated during the cleanup of an industrial property are consolidated, treated, and contained in a CAMU

CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act): Requires that a study be done on a project to determine whether it will have an adverse impact on the environment

CMS (Corrective Measure Study): The third phase of RCRA, consisting of the identification of corrective action requirements and the evaluation and selection of appropriate remedies

COC (Contaminant of Concern): Site-related chemicals that pose the most critical health concerns to humans and/or environmental receptors because of their toxicity and potential routes of exposure

DTSC: California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control

Geosynthetic: A class of man-made and naturally occurring materials manufactured into products primarily used for stability, reinforcement, separation, drainage, covers and liners

Hazardous Waste: Solid, semi-solid, or gaseous wastes which pose a potential threat to public health or the environment, and are known to be ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and/or toxic

ND (Non-detect): Below analytical laboratory detection limit

PCB (Polychlorinated biphenyls): A hazardous substance used most commonly in electrical transformers; the sale or new use of PCBs was banned by law in 1979

RCRA: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

SWMU (Solid Waste Management Unit): Sites where hazardous waste has been generated, treated, stored, or disposed

USS-POSCO Industries: Joint venture operation between the United States Steel Corporation and Pohang Iron and Steel of Korea

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3933.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Site, please call Project Mgr, Andy Berrna-Hicks at (510) 540-3956 Public Participation Specialist, at (510) 540-3933. For media questions, call Angela Blanchette at (510) 540-3732.

Information Repositories at which you can view documents relevant to this Project:

Pittsburg Main Library
Reference Desk
80 Power Avenue
Pittsburg, California 94565
(925) 427-8390

The full Administrative Record for this site is available for public review at the following location:

DTSC File Room
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3800

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach Jesus Cruz (510) 540-3933.

PPS
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